



Public Works | 860-584-6125

Memorandum

Date: September 8, 2020

To: Mayor Zoppo-Sassu
Board of Public Works

CC: Robert Longo, Director of Water/WPC
Wyland Dale Clift, Corporation Counsel

From: Raymond A Rogozinski, P.E., Public Works Director

Re: Removal of City Trees Clogging Private Sanitary Sewer Laterals/ Trees on Private Property

The Department of Public Works has received requests from property owners to remove City trees in locations where the tree roots are clogging their sanitary sewer lateral. In response to these request property owners are advised that if tree roots are getting into their sanitary sewer lateral the lateral should be replaced. Tree roots migration into sanitary sewer laterals is indicative of a leaking sanitary lateral that is a source of infiltration and in need of replacement/repair.

Property owners are directed to contact the WPC/Water Department regarding required permits. The DPW advises the property owners that the DPW will remove the City tree if the tree is in the way of work required to replace the sanitary sewer lateral otherwise the tree will not be remove if it is healthy.

The DPW has also received a number of complaints associated with private trees. The typical concern consist of a property owner indicating that an adjacent property owner has a hazardous tree that is a risk of falling and damaging their property. As tree warden my authority to remove trees is limited to City property (not under the control of another department such as DOE, Park or Water/WPC) and City roadway right of ways. The City does not have the right or authority to remove private trees.

When DPW receives complaints associated with private trees, property owners are advised of the City tree warden authority & limitations. I do, at times, schedule on-site visits to inspect the private trees and if I determined that the tree poses an extreme hazard I will issue a letter to the property owner in question. One issue, is that all trees pose a risk and even an apparent healthy tree can cause damage either by falling or from a broken limbs.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions/concerns at 860-584-6113.